

**Mental Health Services Act
Workforce Education and Training**

**Continuing Education
Special Topic Workgroup**

TELECONFERENCE CALL

September 8, 2006

1. Present via telephone.

- a. Rosa Della Casa, EMQ
- b. Wendy Desormeaux, Department of Mental Health
- c. Warren Hayes, Department of Mental Health
- d. Inna Tysoe, Department of Mental Health

2. Discussion.

The progress of the Post-Secondary Education workgroups was reviewed, and input from a public mental health staff development perspective was solicited. Use of MHSA education and training funds for the continuing education of existing employees was deemed important and appropriate in two areas.

a. *For the Employee.* Payment for continuing education credits to educational/training entities recognized by licensing authorities. There was not a perceived need to create any additional CEU/CME structures. However, any proposed continuing education sponsored by MHSA would need to be consistent with the intent of the Act and meet workforce needs, such as language proficiency.

b. *For the Employer.* Payment to employers (both county and contract agency) for release time to employees. An example would be a “20-20” strategy that would enable an employee to work part-time and attend education/training part-time. However, release time could be budgeted for a number of appropriate education and training functions, such as providing training and/or clinical supervision. The employer would be paid to hire additional staff time to fill behind the time that existing staff redirect to education and training activities.

A prominent unaddressed continuing education need was to training mental health staff to be leaders, managers and administrators. Examples of topics could be personnel management, negotiating skills, skills and strategies in financial management, and using information to make better decisions.

3. Next Meeting.

The Post-Secondary Education Workgroup will next meet on Thursday, October 5th, from 10:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. at the California Endowment in Sacramento.